



**Underhill Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2020
Remote Meeting**

Present: Karen McKnight, Steve Webster, Nancy McRae, Daphne Tanis, Pat Lamphere, Peter Hiskes, Amy Golodetz, Laurie Graham

Absent: Betsy Chapek

Guests: David Demarest

6:40 p.m. Welcome Karen McKnight welcomes all and leads the meeting. Karen McKnight thanks all members for their work on Plant Sale & Silent Auction and thanks Daphne Tanis and Betsy Chapek for their planning.

Laurie Graham moves to record the meeting. Pat Lamphere seconds. The meeting is going to be recorded by a vote of 6-0.

6:45 p.m. Approval of Minutes: 8/10/20

Approval of 8/10/20 Meeting Minutes. Nancy McRae motions to approve the minutes and Amy Golodetz seconds. Committee approves the minutes by a vote of 8-0.

6:46pm Plant Sale & Silent Auction Debrief

Karen McKnight introduces that donations totaled \$175. Shearer's donated to the Conservation Commission, \$100, and Penny Miller donated \$75. Total amount made at the Plant Sale & Silent Auction was \$646. Daphne Tanis is missing some bid sheets but estimates that the silent auction brought in about \$280-300 dollars. We plan to do a Silent Auction again in June with the Plant Sale, posting some of the Silent Auction items ahead of time, noting that timing may need to be adjusted slightly. Karen McKnight suggests a Silent Auction on FPF for the 1 leftover item, a gardening basket. COVID-19 requirements at the event were met, free masks were distributed by the town. Steve Webster suggests providing feedback to the people who donated Silent Auction items, The Shearer's, Penny Miller, Jay, Jim and Travis Beebe-Woodard. **Karen McKnight, Amy Golodetz, Daphne Tanis and Nancy McRae will write thank-you notes. Daphne Tanis will check with Betsy Chapek to make sure she hasn't already written thank-you notes and will send a list to the thank-you note writers.** Impressive teamwork overall.

7:04pm Tools and Supplies

Karen McKnight sent a spreadsheet with the list of items and cost. Steve Webster still needs to get reimbursed for hardware cloth- it will come from Miscellaneous in the budget. Amy Golodetz reminds us we need posts for the CBCD sign to be installed; Amy Golodetz doesn't believe we will need help from Nate Sullivan to install, just need the 4x4 posts, post hole digger and screw gun. Karen McKnight just needs the cost of the wood. Discussion continues as Jerihill can invoice the town

directly, there is a discount. Steve Webster will ask if Sherri Morin can order the weed wrench for us, \$189 plus shipping, and the Parsnip Predator, tool for removing poison parsnip, ~\$56 dollars, from a different company. Steve Webster will send the links for both items for the UCC to review. Karen McKnight notes the need for clippers. The selectboard will not allow storing these tools at a UCC member's house, for auditing purposes; Karen McKnight also notes that goes for the "tool lending library" as well. Steve Webster believes we should continue the conversation about the tool lending library, as if we are spending the money on these items, they shouldn't sit idle when we're not using them. Pat Lamphere notes that the town loans medium equipment items, forklifts, etc. and is not sure why this would be a problem. Karen McKnight will ask the selectboard again to allow us to provide a lending library of tools that residents can use.

Karen McKnight was not able to talk with Anton Kelsey of the Recreation Committee about storing items at the town pond but notes that the shed door is unlocked.

Daphne Tanis suggests building a shed at the town hall, Laurie Graham agrees, noting that the Town could use the shed for the voting items storing, other committee items.

Steve Webster motion that the UCC recommends to the Town that they build a shed for various committees and themselves to store items. Daphne Tanis seconds. The motion passes by a vote of 7-0. Steve Webster and Laurie Graham will attend the next selectboard meeting and Steve Webster will present this suggestion either during Public Comment or by an addition to the agenda.

Steve Webster notes that he has hardware cloth at his home.

7:26pm Crane Brook Conservation District

Conversation on Trails Signage, Use of Trails Guidelines. Kiosks is tabled.

Invasive Species: Steve Webster suggests not just focusing on Japanese Knotweed, and going after other invasive species. Karen McKnight notes asian bittersweet, goutweed, garlic mustic, etc. at Moore Park. Karen McKnight suggests we could work on that, or plan to go back to the other side of CBCD to check on the honeysuckle, perhaps with a work party. Discussion continues and a suggestion of hosting a demonstration project at Moore Park continues. Daphne Tanis believes it would be great to have a session at Moore Park to introduce people to invasives. Penny Miller has suggested intervention methods weekly in FPF.

Beartown Road Gravel Pit Japanese Knotweed patch will have half ½ inch and half ¼ inch hardware cloth installed.

There is a VT Land Trust webinar on September 16, 2020.

The final Japanese Knotweed work party at CBCD is September 19, 2020.

The UCC will host a Moore Park invasives informational event on September 20, 2020. Small mesh will be installed by the brook, for educational purposes. Karen McKnight will email Ethan Tapper and ask if he is able to join.

Next Meeting: October 12, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Public Comment: David Demarest notes at the end of the last UCC meeting, Anton Kelsey mentioned a structure crossing the brook. David Demarest suggests a Beaver Baffler, as he had proposed in 2009 and believes it would be a win-win for the trail users and landowners. Karen McKnight notes the baffler at the Milton town forest requires quite a bit of maintenance and believes this a great idea to continue considering, and will reach out to Kim Royer, the beaver expert for the state. Daphne agrees it is a great idea and notes required maintenance, Irish Settlement road put baffles in 2 years ago, and the beavers left. David Demarest provides a link to a grant that could cover the partial cost of the baffler, and a link showing how the UCC and Selectboard used lawyers after the prior baffler suggestion.

Steve Webster notes that water is rising, beavers are creating sunnier spots with disturbed ground, creating a better area for knotweed growth. Karen McKnight will try to go back and observe the site.

Unknown if the trail through the meadow has been mowed.

8:08 p.m. Adjourn Nancy McRae moves to adjourn the meeting, Steve Webster seconds. The meeting is adjourned by a vote of 6-0.

Minutes submitted by Laurie Graham.